



Early Childhood Services Bureau News – Fall 2015

What has been going on this summer and fall at ECSB?
Here are a few updates:



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EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES BUREAU WELCOMES NEW STAFF

The Early Childhood Services Bureau is growing! We welcome the following staff to our bureau:

- 🍁 Child Care Quality Program Manager • Leslie Lee
- 🍁 Healthy MT Teen Parent Program Coordinator • AC Rothenbuecher
- 🍁 MT Project LAUNCH Initiative Wellness Expert • Miranda Briggs
- 🍁 MT Project LAUNCH Initiative Wellness Partner • Kerry Williams
- 🍁 MT Preschool Development Grant Coordinator • Sally Tilleman
- 🍁 MT Preschool Development Grant Regional Specialist • Sandy Cade
- 🍁 MT Preschool Development Grant Regional Specialist • Marki Chandler
- 🍁 MT Preschool Development Grant Regional Specialist • Debbie Richert
- 🍁 MT Preschool Development Grant Regional Specialist • Sara Loewen
- 🍁 MT Preschool Development Grant Regional Specialist • Brandi Loch

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GRANT UPDATES

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS GRANT

The ECSB developed a multi-tiered approach to address the mitigation of toxic stress and trauma in early childhood. This approach includes efforts to address prevention, promotion, and intervention through training, education, and consistent messaging. Community participation is encouraged and necessary for these efforts to be successful.

A network of systems is collaborating to expand trauma informed practices. This network includes representation from various DPHHS programs, the Institute for Education Research and Service (IERS) at the University of Montana, the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Montana Early Childhood Project, ChildWise Institute of Intermountain, and local Best Beginnings Community Councils. Recruitment efforts are underway to include pediatricians, and many of the committees on the state Best Beginnings Advisory Council will also participate.

MONTANA PROJECT LAUNCH INITIATIVE

Montana Project LAUNCH has had a busy first Year:

- 🍁 Hired all Federally required employees,
- 🍁 Completed an Environmental Scan

- 🍁 Completed a Strategic Plan (awaiting Federal approval)
- 🍁 In the beginning stages of writing an Evaluation Plan
- 🍁 Provided various training opportunities;
 - Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3 and Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social Emotional (ASQ/ASQ-SE),
 - Neil Horen,
 - Pyramid Model,
 - Practice Based Coaching

The pilot communities, Gallatin and Park County, have;

- 🍁 **Enhanced Home Visiting**
 - Hired 2 additional home visitors who are now assuming caseloads. (Thrive and Gallatin City County Health Department).
- 🍁 **Family Strengthening**
 - Thrive has hired an additional staff member who is being trained and will then implement, The Incredible Years
- 🍁 **Screening and Assessment/Mental Health Consultation**
 - Child Care Connections has hired a staff member to implement ASQ/ASQ-SE screening and support providers using the Pyramid Model and/or Early Childhood Mental Health Consulting.
- 🍁 **Behavioral Health in Primary Care/Mental Health Consultation in Early Care and Education**
 - Gallatin Mental Health Center is in the process of hiring an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant and a Behavioral Health Clinician.
- 🍁 Greater Gallatin United Way has hired one of the federally required employees, Young Child Wellness Coordinator and will continue to work with the Early Childhood Community Council and the grant requirements for this council.

MONTANA PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The Montana Preschool grant is in the first year of implementation. The MPDG will help Montana improve access to high quality preschool education in 16 high needs communities, eight of which are on Indian lands. Grant funding can be used to support four-year-old children from families whose income is at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Line or who have been determined as eligible for special education.

The grant will enable Montana to provide high quality preschool to 6,000 four-year olds in 16 communities over the four-year period.

MPDG Participants	
Cohort I	Great Falls School District
	Hardin School District
	CMHS Head Start, Lewistown Area
	RMDC Head Start, Helena Area
	HRDC Head Start, Bozeman Area
	Anaconda School District
	Libby School District
Cohort II	Fort Peck Head Start
	Blackfeet Early Childhood Center Head Start
	Anaconda-Deer Lodge County



	Head Start
	Crow Nation Head Start
	Kootenai Valley Head Start, Libby and Troy
Cohort III	Kalispell School District Northwest Montana Head Start, Kalispell
	Butte Head Start Butte School District
	Northern Cheyenne Head Start, Lame Deer
	Rocky Boy Head Start
	CSKT Early Childhood Center, Ronan Area
	Fort Belknap Head Start

Montana Preschool Development Grant Project Activities and Outcomes

The purpose of the Preschool Development Grant is to support state and local efforts to build, develop, and expand High-Quality Preschool Programs so children from low-and moderate-income families enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and in life.

More Information about the MPDG can be found on the U.S. Department of Education Website: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/preschooldevelopmentgrants/index.html>

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BEST BEGINNINGS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Best Beginnings Advisory Council (BBAC) is managed through the ECSB. The BBAC provides advisory capacity and assist in developing a coordinated strategic plan across our Department and in supporting comprehensive early childhood services in Montana. The goal is that Montana shall have a comprehensive, coordinated early childhood system that provides a governance structure and leads to strong collaboration in order to best meet the needs of Montana's youngest citizens.

The BBAC serves as the advisory board for the following seven grants:

1. Child Care Development Block Grant
2. Early Childhood Collaborative System: Trauma Informed Care Grant (ECCS)
3. Head Start State Collaboration Grant (HSSCO)
4. Healthy Montana Teen Parent Program Grant (HMTTP)
5. Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant (MIECHV)
6. Montana Preschool Development Grant (MPDG)
7. Montana Project Launch Initiative Grant (MT-PLI)

The major responsibilities of the Best Beginnings State Advisory Council include:

- Children have access to high quality Early Childhood Programs.
- Families with young children are supported in their community.
- Children have access to a medical home and health insurance.
- Social, emotional, and mental health needs of young children and families are supported.



The BBAC met October 7-8 at the Red Lion Colonial in Helena.

Meeting agendas, notes, and resources can be found at:

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare/BestBeginningsAdvisoryCouncil.aspx#154223650-2015-meeting-resources->

Next Meetings:

- February 10-11, 2016, Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena
- June 28-29, 2016, Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena
- October 5-6, 2016, Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena

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BEST BEGINNINGS STARS TO QUALITY MARKETING AND OUTREACH

STARS to Quality has accepted a proposal from the Wendt Agency to begin working on a marketing and outreach campaign. One of the goals of the campaign is to increase awareness of quality child care specifically the STARS to Quality program. It will also help to support providers in marketing their programs and involvement with STARS to Quality to families seeking child care and their community partners. We strive to have the work developed and completed by June 2016.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE GREAT MONTANA SHAKE OUT – STATEWIDE EARTHQUAKE DRILL



OCTOBER 21ST AT 10:21AM

At 10:21 a.m. on October 21, 2015, thousands of people will “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” in The Great Montana ShakeOut, the state's largest earthquake drill ever.

How to participate: visit www.ShakeOut.org/montana for information on how to register.

MTAEYC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Montana Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference is October 15-17 in Bozeman. For more information, visit <http://www.mtaeyc.org/>

STATE PLAN STATE-WIDE FORUMS



On November 19, 2014, President Obama signed the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 into law. This reauthorizes the child care program for the first time since 1996 and represents an historic re-envisioning of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program. The new law makes significant advancements by defining health and safety requirements for child care providers, outlining family-friendly eligibility policies, and ensuring parents and the general public have transparent information about the child care choices available to them¹.

The Reauthorization of CCDF and the supporting State Plan Preprint covers the following categories:

1. CCDF Leadership and Coordination with Early Childhood Systems
2. Promoting Family Engagement through Outreach and Consumer Education
3. Providing Stable Child Care Financial Assistance
4. Ensure Equal Access to High Quality Child Care for Low Income Families
5. Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to ensure Health and Safety of Child Care Settings
6. Recruit and Retain Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce
7. Support Continuous Quality Improvement
8. Ensure Grantee Accountability and Program Integrity

This fall, staff from the Early Childhood Services Bureau and Quality Assurance Division will travel across the state. We are excited to meet with communities and inform them about the state plan and what it means to Montana.

City:	Dates:
Bozeman	November 9
Great Falls	November 12
Miles City	November 16
Billings	November 17
Missoula	November 23
Helena	December 1 – statewide WebEx

¹ US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-reauthorization>

A MESSAGE FROM THE CDC

Look who's talking now! "Uh oh!" is an important milestone for babies at 12 months. To learn more fun facts about your child's development and what to expect at different ages, check out these [free milestone checklists](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

As of end of FY2015, CACFP is serving 141 child care institutions, and our 10 sponsoring organizations are assisting an additional 600 day care homes. In the past 12 months, we've reimbursed over 7 million meals and snacks, and funded over \$10 million in reimbursements.



REDUCING EARLY CHILDHOOD TOOTH DECAY: APPROACHES IN MEDICAID

New issue briefs on reducing early childhood tooth decay have been released by Medicaid. For more information about the Children's Oral Health Initiative, Tools to Help States Improve the Delivery of Dental and Oral Health Services, and much more, please visit [Medicaid.gov](https://www.Medicaid.gov).

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES BUREAU STAFF LIST

ECSB Chief ✧ Patty Butler ✧ 444-1828
ECSB Administrative Assistant ✧ Sarah Adams ✧ 444-9120
Budget Analyst ✧ Darla Tenter ✧ 444-2803
Contract Coordinator ✧ Renne't Sarbu ✧ 444-5925
Child and Adult Care Food Program
CACFP Manager ✧ Mary Musil ✧ 444-4086
CACFP Administrative Assistant ✧ Diane Edgar ✧ 444-4347
CACFP Program Specialist ✧ Deb Hansen ✧ 444 -9467
CACFP Program Specialist ✧ Vicki Anfinson ✧ 444-2674
Policy Unit
Child Care Program Manager ✧ Carrie Leu ✧ 444-3657
Compliance Specialist ✧ Allison Drake ✧ 444-1400
CCR&R Program Officer ✧ Chauntel Lucier ✧ 329-1286
Management Analyst ✧ Melody Olson ✧ 444-1839
Early Childhood Systems Unit
ECCS Manager ✧ Kathy Rich ✧ 444-0589
HSSCO Director ✧ Mary Pierce ✧ 444-0309
HMTTP ✧ AC Rothenbuecher ✧ 444-9812
MT Project LAUNCH Initiative Wellness Expert ✧ Miranda Briggs ✧ 444-6956
MT Project LAUNCH Initiative Wellness Partner ✧ Kerry Williams ✧
Quality Unit
Child Care Quality Program Manager ✧ Leslie Lee ✧ 444-3928
Program Specialist ✧ Leann Worden ✧ 329-1321
Program Specialist ✧ Rhonda Schwenke ✧ 466-2325
Montana Preschool Development Grant
MPDG Coordinator ✧ Sally Tilleman ✧ 444-2789
Regional Specialist ✧ Sandy Cade ✧ 587-7786
Regional Specialist ✧ Marki Chandler ✧ 422-8327
Regional Specialist ✧ Debbie Richert ✧ 560-2258
Regional Specialist ✧ Sara Loewen ✧ 444-7605



Regional Specialist ☼ Brandi Loch ☼ 560-7613

Early Childhood Services Bureau
Department of Public Health and Human Services
111 N. Jackson
Arcade Building, 5th Floor
Early Childhood Services Bureau: (406) 444-1788
Childcare Unit: (866) 239-0458
CACFP: (888) 307-9333

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